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OFFICE OF PETITIONS

In re Application of :  
Brian L. Tafel :  
Application No. 10/662,686 : DECISION ON PETITION  
Filed: 15 September, 2003 :  
For: SPLICING VEHICLE :

This is a decision on the petition filed on 11 July, 2006, under 37 CFR 1.137(b),<sup>1</sup> to revive the above-identified application.

The petition is **GRANTED**.

The application became abandoned on 28 May, 2005, for failure to timely file a proper reply to the non-final Office action mailed on 25 January, 2005. A one (1) month extension of time was filed on 6 May, 2005. Notice of Abandonment was mailed on 31 May, 2006.

<sup>1</sup> Effective December 1, 1997, the provisions of 37 CFR 1.137(b) now provide that where the delay in reply was unintentional, a petition may be filed to revive an abandoned application or a lapsed patent pursuant to 37 CFR 1.137(b). A grantable petition filed under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.137(b) must be accompanied by:

(1) the required reply, unless previously filed. In a nonprovisional application abandoned for failure to prosecute, the required reply may be met by the filing of a continuing application. In a nonprovisional utility or plant application filed on or after June 8, 1995, and abandoned for failure to prosecute, the required reply may also be met by the filing of a request for continuing examination in compliance with § 1.114. In an application or patent, abandoned or lapsed for failure to pay the issue fee or any portion thereof, the required reply must be the payment of the issue fee or any outstanding balance thereof. In an application, abandoned for failure to pay the publication fee, the required reply must include payment of the publication fee.

(2) the petition fee as set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(m);

(3) a statement that the entire delay in filing the required reply from the due date for the reply until the filing of a grantable petition pursuant to 37 CFR 1.137(b) was unintentional. The Commissioner may require additional information where there is a question whether the delay was unintentional; and

(4) any terminal disclaimer (and fee as set forth in 37 CFR 1.20(d)) required pursuant to 37 CFR 1.137(c)).

The present petition is accompanied by an amendment.

The application is being forwarded to Technology Center Art Unit 3654 for further processing.

Telephone inquiries concerning this matter may be directed to the undersigned at (571) 272-3231.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "D. Wood".

Douglas I. Wood  
Senior Petitions Attorney  
Office of Petitions